I. Text

Blue Flies 青蠅

Buzzing blue flies
Gather on the fence.
Joyous and civil is the noble man:
He does not believe in words of slander.

Buzzing blue flies
Gather at the brambles.
The slander-mongers know no limit,
And wreak havoc in domain on four sides.

Buzzing blue flies
Gather at the thickets.
The slander-mongers know no limits,
And sow discord between you and me.

[Translated by Wai-yee Li]
The poem read in Mandarin by Zhao Sikun
II. Episode Notes

- Zuozhuan or the Zuo Tradition 左傳
- fushi 賦詩, a certain person chants or recites a certain poem
- ba 霸, overlord or hegemon, often the leader of an alliance
- Jin 晉, one of the most powerful states during the Spring and Autumn Period and the leader of various alliances
- Fan Xuanzi 范宣子 (Fan Gai 范匄, d. 548 BCE), chief minister in Jin
- Juzhi 駒支, leader of the Rong barbarians

III. Textual Source